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Message Text

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43
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: GOU DECREES DEPRIVATION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS

1. SUMMARY. IN ONE OF HIS FIRST OFFICIAL ACTS, PRESIDENT MENDEZ SIGNED "CONSTITUTIONAL DECREE" NO. 4 DEPRIVING A WIDE SPECTRUM OF URUGUAYANS OF THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING IN SOME CASES THE RIGHT TO VOTE, FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN YEARS. THOSE AFFECTED INCLUDE VIRTUALLY ALL URUGUAYANS WHO WERE CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE 1966 AND 1971 ELECTIONS, WHO NOW SERVE ON THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF POLITICAL PARTIES, OR WHO HAVE BEEN PROCESSED FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE NATION. END SUMMARY.

2. GIVEN "THE SITUATION CREATED IN THE COUNTRY BY THE WORK OF SUBVERSION AND THE INERTIA OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES ON WHOSE LEADERS RESTED THE INSTITUTIONAL DECOMPOSITION WHICH GAVE CAUSE TO THE DECREE OF JUNE 27, 1973", PRESIDENT MENDEZ ON SEPTEMBER 1, SIGNED CONSTITUTIONAL DECREE NO. 4.

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3. THE DECREE DEPRIVES THE FOLLOWING, "FOR A PERIOD OF

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15 YEARS, THE EXERCISE OF ALL ACTIVITIES OF A POLITICAL NATURE WHICH THE CONSTITUTION AUTHORIZES, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO VOTE:"

(A) ALL CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN 1966 AND 1971 FROM MARXIST OR PRO-MARXIST PARTIES OR POLITICAL GROUPS DECLARED ILLEGAL ON DECEMBER 12, 1967 AND NOVEMBER 26, 1973.

(B) ALL PERSONS PROCESSED FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE NATION.

4. THE FOLLOWING WERE DENIED THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR 15 YEARS, BUT DID NOT LOSE THE RIGHT TO VOTE:

(A) ALL CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN 1966 AND 1971 FROM PARTIES ELECTORALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THESE MENTIONED IN 3(A) ABOVE.

(B) ALL PERSONS PROCESSED FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTED DURING THE EXERCISE OF THEIR POLITICAL POSTS.

(C) CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT IN 1966 AND 1971.

(D) MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE ELECTED IN 1966 AND 1971, INCLUDING SUPLENTES WHO OCCUPIED SEATS. EXCLUDED ARE THOSE PRESENTLY HOLDING "POLITICAL POSTS".

(E) MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES.

5. THE DECREE ALSO CREATED AN "INTERPRETIVE COMMISSION" TO DECIDE UPON CASES OF PROHIBITION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ESTABLISHED IN 4 C, D AND E, ABOVE.

6. COMMENT: TRANSLATION OF FULL TEXT WILL FOLLOW BY CABLE, AS WILL INTERPRETATION. REGARDING INTERPRETATION, IT SEEMS THAT MUCH REMAINS TO BE CLARIFIED, INCLUDING PRECISELY WHAT POLITICAL ACTIVITES ARE PROSCRIBED AND WHO IS TO BE INCLUDED AMONG THOSE PRESENTLY HOLDING "POLITICAL POSTS". THE MEDIA HAS CARRIED A GREAT DEAL OF NEWS BUT LITTLE COMMENT. HOWEVER, ONE PAPER ASSUMED, AS WE DO, THAT THE INTERPRETIVE COMMISSION WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE INDIVIDUALS FROM THE PROSCRIBED LIST.

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